the age of fifteen, then he cannot be put up for adoption. Every adoption is covered by a certain set of rules.

When the adoptive couple wants to adopt a boy, the mother or the father must not have his, her or their own Hindu son alive, or a son's son alive. If the couple want to adopt a girl, the mother or the father must not have her or his or their Hindu daughter alive, or his, her, or their Hindu son's Hindu daughter alive or any of these relations from the adoptive son, or son's adopted daughter or son.

One child, at one time cannot be adopted by more than one person. If a man wishes to adopt a girl, he must be twenty-one years older than the girl, if a woman is adopting l male child she must be twenty-one years older than him. Adoption is permanent, it does not need any sanction by religious rites but they can be performed if local customs or traditions demand them.

Living Conditions of Poor Children

233. **SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :**
SHRI PARMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the magazine section of Sunday Pioneer 'Pulse' of 14th November, 1993 under the heading 'Life on a garbage heap';

(b) whether it is a fact that Delhi is having more than 50,000 children who live in miserable conditions and support their families by collecting rage etc;

(c) if so, what is the number of such unfortunate children living in miserable conditions in various other metropolitan cities in the country; viz, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, etc.;

(d) whether any welfare schemes have been considered by Government and other voluntary organisations for the welfare, education, employment and providing shelter to these unfortunate children who are victims of the circumstances; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof. and what steps have been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to a Sample Survey sponsored by the Government of India and the UNICEF, Delhi has 1.10 lakh street children and Madras has 0.40 lakh street children. Data regarding the total number of street children in other cities is not available

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. There is the Central scheme for the Welfare of Street Children under which grants are sanctioned to voluntary organisations for the welfare of street children. At present, the scheme is being implemented in 11 most populous cities of the country through 40 voluntary organisations. In addition to this, there is the scheme "Children in Need of Care and Protection", now transferred to the State Governments/UT Administrations w.e.f. 1-4-1992. In addition to the schemes of Central/State Governments, certain voluntary organisations are doing work for the rehabilitation of the street children from their own resources.

Steps to Tackle Alcohol Abuse

234. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that alcohol abuse is a major cause in failed marriages and family problems in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard and, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to conduct such a survey in the near future; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to enforce prohibition in the country ?